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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
10/699,388	10/31/2003	Brian D. Cull	H0003963	3261
128	7590	06/06/2005		EXAMINER
HONEYWELL INTERNATIONAL INC.			LEE, WILSON	
101 COLUMBIA ROAD			ART UNIT	PAPER NUMBER
P O BOX 2245				2821
MORRISTOWN, NJ 07962-2245				

DATE MAILED: 06/06/2005

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

Office Action Summary	Application No.	Applicant(s)
	10/699,388	CULL ET AL.
Examiner	Art Unit	
Wilson Lee	2821	

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If the period for reply specified above is less than thirty (30) days, a reply within the statutory minimum of thirty (30) days will be considered timely.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

1) Responsive to communication(s) filed on 31 October 2003.

2a) This action is **FINAL**. 2b) This action is non-final.

3) Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

4) Claim(s) 1-20 is/are pending in the application.
4a) Of the above claim(s) _____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.

5) Claim(s) 9-20 is/are allowed.

6) Claim(s) 1 and 2 is/are rejected.

7) Claim(s) 3-8 is/are objected to.

8) Claim(s) _____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

9) The specification is objected to by the Examiner.

10) The drawing(s) filed on _____ is/are: a) accepted or b) objected to by the Examiner.

 Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).

 Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).

11) The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

12) Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
a) All b) Some * c) None of:
1. Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
2. Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
3. Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

* See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

Attachment(s)

1) Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)
2) Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)
3) Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO-1449 or PTO/SB/08)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date 10/31/03.

4) Interview Summary (PTO-413)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date. ____.
5) Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152)
6) Other: ____.

Objections

Claims 8, 15 and 19 are objected because of the following informalities:

Regarding Claims 8, 15, 19, line 2, should "one of a group consisting of" be inserted after "comprise"?

Claim Rejections – 35 U.S.C. 102

The following is a quotation of the appropriate paragraphs of 35 U.S.C. 102 that form the basis for the rejections under this section made in this Office action:

A person shall be entitled to a patent unless –

(b) the invention was patented or described in a printed publication in this or a foreign country or in public use or on sale in this country, more than one year prior to the date of application for patent in the United States.

Claims 1 and 2 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) as being anticipated by Nakai (4,625,152).

Regarding Claim 1, Nakai discloses a lamp driver system for selectively driving a first lamp (20R) and a second lamp (20B), the lamp driver system comprising:

- a fault detector (13), the fault detector coupled to the first lamp and the second lamp to determine when a failure occurs in the first lamp or the second lamp; and
- an output steering device (32 or 60), the output steering device selectively driving the first lamp and the second lamp in response to failures detected in the first lamp or the second lamp (See Figures 9 and 10).

Regarding Claim 2, Nakai discloses that the first lamp and second lamp comprise fluorescent lamps (See Abstract).

Allowable subject matter

Claims 3-8 are objected to as being dependent upon a rejected base claim, but would be allowable if rewritten in independent form including all of the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims.

Claims 9-20 are allowed

The following is an examiner's statement of reasons for allowance:

The prior art neither discloses nor suggests the following limitations in combination with the remaining elements disclosed in claims 9 and 16:

- the fault detected is coupled to the first controller to determine when a failure occurs in the first controller and a second controller selectively driving the first lamp and second lamp when a failure occurs in the first controller such as required by claim 9;
- a first output steering device, the first output steering device selectively driving the first lamp and the second lamp; a second output steering device, the second output steering device selectively driving the first lamp and the second lamp, a second fault detector, the second fault detector coupled to the first lamp and the second lamp to determine when a failure occurs in the first lamp or the second lamp and coupled to the first controller to determine when a failure occurs in the first controller as required by claim 16.

Any comments considered necessary by applicant must be submitted no later than the payment of the issue fee and, to avoid processing delays, should preferably

accompany the issue fee. Such submissions should be clearly labeled "Comments on Statement of Reasons for Allowance."

Conclusion

The prior art made of record and not relied upon is considered pertinent to applicant's disclosure. Saito (6,404,145) disclose an apparatus for controlling backlight for LCD. Pilz et al. (6,404,143) discloses a lighting system. Lestician (Re 35,994) discloses a variable control current sensing ballast. Pedretti (5,811,942) discloses a device for optimized management of fluorescent lamps.

Correspondence

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Examiner Wilson Lee whose telephone number is (571) 272-1824.

Papers related to Technology Center 2800 applications may be submitted to Technology Center 2800 by facsimile transmission. Any transmission not to be considered an official response must be clearly marked "DRAFT". The official fax number is (703) 872-9306.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you

have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free).



Wilson Lee
Primary Examiner
U.S. Patent & Trademark Office

5/31/05